
**Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier
(Coauthors: Senators Hancock, Lieu, and Price)**

January 14, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 8, as introduced, DeSaulnier. Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month

This measure would proclaim the month of March, each year, as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month and encourage all citizens to participate in prevention programs and activities and to pledge to “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill.”

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2008, drug overdoses in the United States caused
2 36,450 deaths and 20,044 of these were from prescription drug
3 overdoses; and
4 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers
5 (OPR) have increased and now exceed deaths involving heroin
6 and cocaine combined; and
7 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits
8 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals (an increase
9 of 98.4 percent since 2004); and
10 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of OPR costs insurance companies
11 up to \$72.5 billion annually in health care costs; and
12 WHEREAS, By 2010, enough prescription painkillers were sold
13 to medicate every American adult with a typical dose of five
14 milligrams of hydrocodone every four hours for one month; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2010, 2 million people reported using
2 prescription painkillers nonmedically for the first time within the
3 last year—nearly 5,500 a day; and

4 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
5 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
6 doctor; and

7 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
8 Abuse, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies,
9 community-based organizations, alcohol and other drug service
10 providers, and civic and business leaders, coordinates Prescription
11 Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities to offer our citizens the
12 opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to campaigns and
13 education aimed at raising awareness about the abuse and misuse
14 of prescription drugs, promoting safe storage and disposal of
15 prescription drugs, and using medications only as prescribed; and

16 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
17 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and
18 local governments, health care practitioners, pharmacists, and the
19 general public throughout the state will demonstrate their
20 commitment to the prevention of prescription medication abuse
21 by participating in activities intended to highlight local efforts
22 during the month of March; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
24 *thereof concurring*, That the month of March, each year, is hereby
25 be proclaimed to be Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month
26 and that all citizens are encouraged to participate in prevention
27 programs and activities and to pledge to “Spread the Word ... One
28 Pill Can Kill”; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.